

REMARKS

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 29 and to include recitations based on, e.g., the disclosure in paragraph [0047] of the publication of the present application.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 24, 26, and 29-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Sonnenberg et al.

With respect to the argument that the inside layer of the claimed invention is not visible from the outside, the Examiner contends on page 5 of the Office Action that Applicants' claims do not state that the inside layer is not visible, but that the outside layer is a different color than at least one inside layer. Therefore, the Examiner indicates that the argument with respect to visibility is not well founded since one inside layer can be different but other inside layers may be the same as the outside layer.

While the Examiner's position is not entirely clear to Applicants, Applicants have amended the claimed invention to further clarify the distinction between the present invention and Sonnenberg.

In particular, Applicants note that claim 24 now recites that (1) the outside layer of the present invention surrounds the at least one inside layer, (2) the layers are opaque, and (3) the outside layer disappears due to the washing or bathing, thereby changing the color of the cleansing bar.

Thus, Applicants submit that only the outside layer of the present invention can be seen from the outside (see Fig. 1).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111
USAN 10/787,142

In contrast, Sonnenberg specifically discloses in, e.g., its Abstract and its "Field of the Invention" section that its invention relates to multiphase soaps in which the individual phases are highly visible when viewed from the above and from the side (see, e.g., Figs. 3A and 3B in Sonnenberg). Since Sonnenberg discloses at col. 2, lines 35-41 that such is a characteristic feature of its invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Sonnenberg to arrive at the present invention, in which only the outside layer can be seen from the outside.

In view of the above reasoning as well as the reasoning of record, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over Sonnenberg, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention is now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss this application with the undersigned, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

In view of the above, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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